

INFORMATION SECRET REPORT

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COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 3 December 1948

SUBJECT Reported Consistory for the Creation of New Cardinals

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1. In Vatican circles, it is reported that Pope Pius XII will hold a consistory, in December, for the creation of approximately ten new Italian and foreign cardinals. Among those mentioned are Msgr. Francesco Borgongini, Nunzio in Italy; Msgr. Celso Costantini, Secretary, S. Congregazione de Propaganda Fide; Msgr. Luca Ermonegildo Pasetto, Secretary, S. Congregazione dei Religiosi; Msgr. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to Washington; Giuseppe Pietta, Nunzio in Argentina; and, perhaps, Msgr. Alfredo Ottaviani, Assessor, Suprema S. Congregazione del Sant'Officio. As well, one or two Spanish, a German, a Czechoslovakian, a Canadian, a Central American, and a Japanese cardinal reportedly will be appointed.

2. Francis Cardinal Spellman is said to be exerting every effort to have the number of cardinals, in the United States, now four, increased to seven or eight. The request is considered exaggerated.

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3. Pressure likewise is being exerted by the Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs, and by both Venezuelan diplomatic representatives, in Rome to have a Venezuelan bishop elevated to a cardinalate. Pope Pius XII reportedly has made no commitments.

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